

SUMMARY

REGIONS:

AFRICA

Sudan

- ▶ Council Conclusions on Sudan (12/02/07)

Somalia

- ▶ Council Conclusions on Somalia (12/02/07)

Republic of Guinea

- ▶ Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the situation in the Republic of Guinea (09/02/07)

AMERICAS

ASIA

Afghanistan

- ▶ Council Conclusions on Afghanistan (12/02/07)

Pakistan

- ▶ EU-Pakistan Joint Declaration Berlin, 08 February 2007 (08/02/07)

EUROPE (OUTSIDE OF UE) AND CIS

Belarus

- ▶ EP President meets Belarus opposition leader (08/02/07)

MAGHREB AND MIDDLE EAST

THEMATIC :

FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

EXTERNAL RELATIONS & DEVELOPMENT-RELATED ISSUES

EU / UN REFORM

MISCELLANEOUS

IMPORTANT COMING MEETINGS

EU - THIRD COUNTRY MEETINGS

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MEETINGS

Committee on Development

- February, 27, 28, 2007

Committee on Foreign Affairs

- February, 26, 27, 28, 2007

Subcommittee on Human Rights

- February, 28, 2007

Subcommittee on security and defence

- February, 28, 2007

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and home affairs

- February, 27, 28, 2007

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

- February, 26, 27, 2007

Committee on budgetary control

- February, 27, 28, 2007

CONFERENCES / EVENTS

Hearing on the new EU Visa Code

- February, 28, 2007

REGIONS:

AFRICA

Sudan

► **Council Conclusions on Sudan (12/02/07)**

2780th EXTERNAL RELATIONS Council meeting Brussels, 12 February 2007

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

“1. The EU is alarmed by the impact of the deteriorating security situation on the humanitarian and human rights situation in Darfur and strongly condemns the killing of an AMIS police officer in Kutum on 1 February as well as the arrest and abuse of international humanitarian aid workers by Sudanese police forces in Nyala on 19 January. In this context the Council notes with concern the first case of a complete withdrawal by a humanitarian NGO from Darfur for security reasons, as well as the 17 January statement by the UN and NGOs that their operations may be unsustainable if the current situation persists. The Council reiterates its demand that all parties refrain from any form of violence against civilians and organisations providing humanitarian assistance. The Council urges all parties to respect their ceasefire commitments, recalling that UN Security Council Resolution 1591 (2005) determines that those impeding the peace process shall be held responsible and appropriate measures shall be taken accordingly.

2. The Council remains gravely concerned about the security situation in Darfur and condemns continued ceasefire violations by all parties. It denounces in particular the bombing of areas in Northern Darfur by the Sudanese Air Force, which disrupted the preparations for a meeting of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) commanders despite the fact that the Sudanese government had earlier declared its consent to the meeting.

3. The Council is very concerned about the most recent findings by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict on the situation in Darfur. It welcomes the final establishment of the UN Human Rights Council High-Level Assessment Mission to Darfur, which has taken up its work on 9 February. The EU appreciates the important work of the mission. It urges the government of Sudan not to prevent the mission from fulfilling its crucial task and to issue the necessary visas as soon as possible.

4. The Council emphasises the need for an inclusive political process to solve the conflict in Darfur and confirms its support for the joint initiative of the AU and UN Special envoys to start negotiations between the parties as soon as possible. It expresses its expectation that SLM and other movements will prepare for early talks aiming at sustainable peace in Darfur, and welcomes recent initiatives in this respect.

5. The EU welcomes the agreement between the AU and UN on the details of the Heavy Support Package for AMIS. It encourages them to work jointly for its speedy implementation and to finalise the plans for the agreed hybrid force as soon as possible. The EU calls on the Sudanese government to cooperate in full with the preparations for and the deployment of the hybrid force. The Council reiterates its readiness to consider further measures, notably in the UN framework, against any party which obstructs its implementation. The EU remains committed to supporting AMIS in the transition period to the hybrid force. The Council will remain seized of this matter. At the same time, it encourages other donors to make additional contributions.

6. The destabilising effects of the Darfur conflict in the wider region, in particular in Chad and in the Central African Republic, are of continuing concern to the Council. The Council calls on governments and other parties to cease all support for rebel movements active in the territory of another country.

7. The Council also expresses its deep concern about the deteriorating security situation in Southern Sudan and in this context strongly condemns the attack on an UNMIS escort near Magwe on 26 January in which an UNMIS soldier was killed. The Council further calls on the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) to refrain from violence and to renew their efforts to fully implement the CPA."

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/92727.pdf

Somalia

► **Council Conclusions on Somalia** (12/02/07)

2780th EXTERNAL RELATIONS Council meeting Brussels, 12 February 2007

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"1. Recalling its conclusions of 22 January 2007, the Council reaffirms its support for the implementation of the Transitional Federal Charter (TFC) through the consolidation of broad based and inclusive Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) and the reestablishment of effective and representative governance. It emphasises that a comprehensive and inclusive political process, reaching out to all sectors of Somali society, is a necessary pre-condition for the achievement of lasting stability and reconciliation.

2. The Council therefore welcomes President Abdullahi Yusuf's commitment announced at the AU Summit in Addis Ababa to launch a national, broad-based process of inter-Somali dialogue, involving representatives of clans, civil society, and business community, religious and political groups. The EU hopes that this process will start as early as possible and is ready to assist in this dialogue.

3. The Council reaffirms the EU's willingness to assist efforts to bring about genuine and credible dialogue for reconciliation, including through support for reconciliation conferences and capacity building for administrative and political institutions, on the basis of concrete and monitor able steps. It looks forward to continuing contacts with representatives from the TFIs on the necessary steps towards towards reconciliation and the reconstruction of Somalia.

4. The Council calls on the Somali government to lift the state of emergency as soon as possible. In particular, the Council looks forward to the early establishment of conditions that would allow the Transitional Federal Parliament to fully assume the role entrusted to it by the TFC and to convene in Mogadishu as soon as possible, with all its members present.

5. The Council welcomes current efforts to establish the Africa Union (AU) Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in order to support political dialogue and create conditions for the stabilisation of the country and the withdrawal of foreign forces from Somalia. It stresses the EU's will to contribute to the financing of AMISOM through the African Peace Facility, as soon as the necessary requirements have been met, including a relevant UN Security Council resolution. The EU will consider possible logistical and technical support for AMISOM, as appropriate.

6. The Council underlines the vital role of the UN in contributing to the longer-term stability of Somalia. The EU underscores the importance to promote regional confidence building and that stabilisation in Somalia facilitates broader stability in the Horn of Africa region. The Council welcomes the outcome of the Somalia International Contact Group meeting in Dares-Salam on 9 February."

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/92724.pdf

Republic of Guinea

- ▶ Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the situation in the Republic of Guinea (09/02/07)

The European Union welcomes the agreement reached on 27 January 2007 between the unions and the Government, which provides for the appointment of a Prime Minister with executive powers.

The European Union very much hopes that that appointment will be made without delay and by consensus, that it will help to bring the political crisis to an end, and that it will enable the EU to resume a constructive dialogue with the new authorities in the framework of the consultations under way since 2004 under the Cotonou agreement.

The European Union is observing the situation in Guinea closely, in close cooperation with ECOWAS. It deeply regrets the loss of human life during the demonstrations last month.

It asks the Government for an unreserved explanation of the circumstances of those deaths and of the judicial steps being taken against those responsible.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/92705.pdf

AMERICAS

ASIA

Afghanistan

- ▶ Council Conclusions on Afghanistan (12/02/07)

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council confirmed the EU's strong long-term commitment to Afghanistan, as expressed by the European Council on 14 December 2006.

Following on from its conclusions of 11 December 2006, the Council approved the Crisis Management Concept (CMC) for an ESDP mission to Afghanistan in the field of policing with linkages to the wider rule of law. A Concept of Operations for the mission is now to be developed on this basis. The Council agreed that the ESDP mission to Afghanistan would provide added value.

The mission will work towards an Afghan police force in local ownership that respects human rights and operates within the framework of the rule of law. The mission should build on current efforts, and follow a comprehensive and strategic approach, in line with the CMC. In doing so, the mission should address issues of police reform at central, regional and provincial level, as appropriate. Close coordination with partners should be ensured, and the International Police Coordination Board (IPCB) and its Secretariat should be a key mechanism for such cooperation. Particular attention should be paid to ensuring complementarity and mutual reinforcement with actions of the European Community, especially with its proposed engagement with reform of the justice sector. As part of an overall and coordinated European approach, the EUSR has an important role to play, also with regard to the ESDP mission. The ESDP mission should comprise an element to assist coordination of contributions, both equipment and rehabilitation of police infrastructure.

In the same spirit, the Council welcomed the holding of a meeting of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) at Political Directors' level in Berlin on 30 January 2007. This was an important contribution to enhancing the coordination of the international community's efforts in Afghanistan. The Council underlined its appreciation for the central role of the JCMB as the main coordination body, both within the

international community and with the Government of Afghanistan, and recognised the important work being done in this framework. The Council underlined the importance of strengthened coordination taking place in Kabul.

Finally, the Council welcomed the holding in Berlin of the second EU ministerial Troika meeting with Afghanistan, which took place on Monday, 29 January 2007. This was the occasion to send the clear message that the EU stands by Afghanistan. The Council agreed that the EU would continue to work together with the Government of Afghanistan to stabilise and rebuild that country, by addressing issues of both security and development."

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/92733.pdf

Pakistan

► EU-Pakistan Joint Declaration Berlin, 08 February 2007 (08/02/07)

The EU and Pakistan welcome their ministerial meeting today as representing a positive new step in strengthening their relations. Both the EU and Pakistan face enormous challenges in the coming years, and fully recognise the importance of working together.

The relationship between the EU and Pakistan is based upon a commitment to democracy, peace and stability, development, the enhancement of trade links, and a respect for human rights. These are principles enshrined in the 2004 Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan¹. Both sides gladly look forward now to moving ahead with the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement, in the belief that it may help to promote socio-economic development and prosperity in Pakistan.

The Cooperation Agreement is published in the Official Journal of the EU, L 378 of 23 December 2004. As a first, practical step, both sides look forward to holding the first EC-Pakistan Joint Commission under the 2004 Cooperation Agreement. This should take place in Islamabad as soon as possible in 2007. This will be the opportunity to strengthen the cooperation dialogue between the two sides, including in the field of trade. Beyond this, the EU and Pakistan express their resolution to develop relations in areas not covered by their 2004 Cooperation Agreement. In particular, the two sides undertake to develop a broad, formalised political dialogue, aimed at improving mutual understanding through regular contacts, exchanges and consultations.

This shall particularly take the following forms:

- Regular ministerial level dialogue to discuss strategic and other issues.
- In between the ministerial meetings, senior officials from both sides (Political and Regional Directors, as appropriate) will meet to ensure follow-up.
- Expert level meetings in a variety of policy areas, including:

- interfaith dialogue;
- counter-terrorism;
- counter-narcotics;
- non-proliferation;
- human rights and good governance.

- Encouraging development of contacts at parliamentary level.

The EU and Pakistan have agreed to exchange experience in the fields of political and economic governance, as well as human rights and the rule of law. Furthermore, both sides have agreed to cooperate in the promotion of regional peace, stability and security.

To this end, the EU and Pakistan reaffirm their commitment to the settlement of disputes by peaceful means, in accordance with international law, bilateral agreements and the principles of the UN Charter. Both sides are also committed to the elimination of poverty in Pakistan, in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/er/92681.pdf

EUROPE (OUTSIDE OF UE) AND CIS

Belarus

► **EP President meets Belarus opposition leader** (08/02/07)

President Poettering today met Mr Aliaksandr Milinkievich the leader of the Belarus opposition and former presidential candidate. The Belarus politician has received the European Parliament's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in 2006. President Poettering commented:

"I conveyed to Mr Milinkievich, and the democratic opposition he represents, a strong message of support and encouragement to continue the struggle. The European Parliament will continue to be strongly committed to the defence of human rights, freedom and democracy all over the world. As the voice of the citizens of Europe, we are the guardians of these values which are the basis on which the European Union is built.

Belarus belongs to the family of European nations. Belarussians have the right to live in freedom. In the European Parliament we strongly condemn the policy of conscious breach of human rights and basic freedoms performed by the government in Minsk.

I have assured Mr Milinkievich that the European Parliament is a firm ally of all the people in Belarus who stand for human rights, freedom and democracy. We in the European Parliament will do our utmost to make it possible for the people living in Belarus to be able to enjoy all those freedoms, which for us in the EU are an everyday reality. I wished Mr Milinkievich every success. My firm conviction is that victory for democracy in Belarus is only a matter of time. Dictatorships do not last forever". The European Parliament has adopted seven resolutions on the situation in Belarus since the beginning of this term in 2004.

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/008-2870-036-02-06-901-20070208IPR02869-05-02-2007-2007-false/default_en.htm

MAGHREB AND MIDDLE EAST

THEMATIC :

FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

EXTERNAL RELATIONS & DEVELOPMENT-RELATED ISSUES

EU / UN REFORM

MISCELLANEOUS